



# **Caribbean Blvd. Improvements** **(Coral Sea Road to SW 87<sup>th</sup> Avenue)**

## **1<sup>st</sup> Public Input Meeting (10/05/11)** **Action/Response Report**

The following comments and issues were discussed during the Town's 1<sup>st</sup> Public Input Meeting for the proposed roadway improvement(s) project. The Action/Response for each Comment/Issue, is a "summary" provided by the Town. If you need additional information and/or further explanation, please contact the Town's Public Works Department at (305) 234-4262 and/or via email: [Caribbeanblvdimprovements@cutlerbay-fl.gov](mailto:Caribbeanblvdimprovements@cutlerbay-fl.gov)

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1. **Comment/Issue:** Apart from at the intersections, non-mountable curb and gutter is not desired. It is not consistent with the residential character of the roadway, prevents parking on the swales and interferes with larger vehicles like boat trailers turning into driveways. A valley gutter or mountable type curb & gutter is preferred, if such a linear element is needed along the edge of the road.

**Action/Response:** The non-mountable curb and gutter (Type F) is the Miami-Dade County Public Works Division standard for this type of roadway facility, and will be constructed for the entire length of this project. Curb at driveway edges will be flared and tapered sufficiently to provide for the maneuverability of larger vehicles turning into and out of the driveways.

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2. **Comment/Issue:** There is a need to extend the proposed Caribbean Blvd. improvement(s) to include the segment from the Turnpike to Coral Sea Road. There is also the need for a direct connection onto the Turnpike (northbound) from Caribbean Boulevard (westbound).

**Action/Response:** Once the Town's Project Design team completes the initial roadway design which will occur after the SECOND Public Input Meeting(s), a detailed construction cost estimate can be performed. Both Miami-Dade County and Town staff will analyze the possibility of funding the additional roadway segment. If the estimate is significantly below the original Joint Participation Agreement (JPA) budget, then the JPA can be amended to "extend" project limits out as far as the budget allows.



3. **Comment/Issue:** The extension of the pedestrian sidewalk in the missing gap along the north side of Caribbean (from SW 186 Terrace to SW 87 Avenue) is neither necessary, nor required by ADA or other regulations.

**Action/Response:** While ADA requirements alone do not specifically require that a sidewalk be constructed within the missing gap (SW 186 Terrace to SW 87 Avenue), the Florida Green Book (Manual of Uniform Standards for Design Construction and Maintenance for Streets and Highways) states the following:

“All new highways, except limited access highways, should be designed and constructed under the assumption they will be used by pedestrians. Provisions for pedestrian traffic should be incorporated into the highway design.”

The planning and design of new streets and urban highways shall include provisions that minimize vehicle-pedestrian conflicts. Features requiring special attention include pedestrian crossings, center raised medians, pathways parallel to the roadway, bus stops and shelters, and other pedestrian activity adjacent to the street or highway.

An ideal method for eliminating vehicle-pedestrian conflicts is to provide essentially independent systems for vehicular and pedestrian traffic. This requires adequate land use allocation and restriction, as well as the proper layout and design of pedestrian pathways.”

The Florida Green Book requirement, stated above, is for pedestrian pathways (sidewalks) links to the ADA requirement to provide access to and from that sidewalk at each of the bus stop locations.

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4. **Comment/Issue:** Construction of a sidewalk in the missing gap along the north side of Caribbean (from SW 186<sup>th</sup> Terrace to SW 87<sup>th</sup> Avenue) will require several existing trees and landscaping to be removed, and will pond with water as the current grass swale in that area does.

**Action/Response:** The planned pedestrian sidewalk will be constructed along the property line (within the public right-of-way) but, it will be meandered as needed, to avoid significant impact to existing trees and landscaping and set an elevation that will preclude ponding – directing water towards the new roadway stormwater drainage system.



5. **Comment/Issue:** Bicycle lanes are not necessary; a widened sidewalk along one side of the road would be preferable and sufficient.

**Action/Response:** On-street bicycle lanes on Caribbean Boulevard are mandated by the Miami-Dade County Metropolitan Planning Organization and by the Town's Bicycle and Pedestrian Master Plan. The Florida Green Book (Manual of Uniform Standards for Design Construction and Maintenance for Streets and Highways) states that all urban arterial and collector roadways should be given consideration for marked on-street bicycle lanes, and these are to be included to the fullest extent feasible. A supplemental shared-use sidewalk (min. 8 feet in width), similar to Old Cutler Road, along one side of the road could also be considered, but will further reduce green swale area.

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6. **Comment/Issue:** Because of the proposed curb and gutter, the proposed bicycle lane needs to be 5 feet in width.

**Action/Response:** The bicycle lane needs to be at least 5 ft. in width, but that includes the width of the gutter pan (located adjacent to the curb). The proposed design provides for 4 ft. of an asphalt bicycle lane plus 1.5 ft. of gutter pan, for a total width of 5.5 ft., which is in conformance with the Florida Green Book (Manual of Uniform Standards for Design Construction and Maintenance for Streets and Highways).

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7. **Comment/Issue:** The proposed roundabouts may be too small for larger vehicles and boat trailers to negotiate.

**Action/Response:** The Town's Project Design team has conducted extensive vehicle turning simulations for busses and boat trailers were run on AutoTurn roadway geometry software, which indicate that the proposed dimensions are adequate and appropriate.

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8. **Comment/Issue:** Consider construction of a roundabout at the intersection of Caribbean Boulevard and Franjo Road.

**Action/Response:** Unfortunately, there is insufficient right-of-way at that intersection to provide for the larger size roundabout that would be required, due to the higher traffic load. As an alternative, the Town will request a signal timing analysis, be performed by Miami Dade County's Public Works Traffic Signals Division to study peak hour delays, and to look at timing modifications to alleviate congestion.



9. **Comment/Issue:** Consider a monument in the central island of the Caribbean Boulevard and SW 192<sup>nd</sup> Drive traffic circle.

**Action/Response:** A monument at that location may be appropriate, but its design and placement need to be coordinated with and approved by Miami-Dade County Public Works Department. Additionally, the Joint Participation Agreement will not fund this possible enhancement. Possible alternate location may be Town's cul-de-sac located along Caribbean Blvd and SW 107 Avenue. Project will need to be funded by the Town's General Fund.

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10. **Comment/Issue:** Provide interim traffic calming measures at Caribbean Boulevard and SW 192<sup>nd</sup> Avenue.

**Action/Response:** The Town's Police Department's Traffic Enforcement Unit will "target" this intersection, during peak hours.

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11. **Comment/Issue:** There is a need for further traffic calming at the approaches to the curves near Bahama Drive and Holiday Road.

**Action/Response:** The Town's Project Design team is proposing small divider islands that will be located in the proposed striped pavement areas approaching these intersections, along with some warning signing along the roadway edges, in order to enhance safety and to provide a roadway narrowing traffic calming effect.

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12. **Comment/Issue:** A left turn lane is needed for westbound traffic on Caribbean Boulevard, turning left onto southbound Franjo Road.

**Action/Response:** As part of the initial conceptual design, the Town's Project Design team, performed a traffic study during the AM & PM Peak Hour turning movement counts on the following days: September 13, 14 and 15, 2011. The data collected was analyzed and studies based on these, in addition to the total corridor traffic, indicates that left turn lanes at these locations are not needed.





13. **Comment/Issue:** Left turn lanes are needed on Caribbean Boulevard at Whispering Pines Drive and Holiday Drive.

**Action/Response:** As part of the initial conceptual design, the Town's Project Design team, performed a traffic study during the AM & PM Peak Hour turning movement counts on the following days: September 13, 14 and 15, 2011. The data collected was analyzed and studies based on these, in addition to the total corridor traffic, indicates that left turn lanes at these locations are not needed.

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14. **Comment/Issue:** New night-reflective traffic signs need to be installed.

**Action/Response:** The roadway project will include all new signage, meeting current night reflectivity standards, throughout the entire corridor.

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15. **Comment/Issue:** The location and need for bus stops, bus pull-off bays and bus shelters needs to be considered very carefully.

**Action/Response:** The Town Project Design team will coordinate with Miami-Dade County Transit to: consolidate some stops that are rarely used with other that experience more ridership; to establish the location of a few bus pull-off bays; and to determine if any further bus shelters can or should be installed.

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16. **Comment/Issue:** There is drainage ponding in many existing driveways, and at a few of the bus stops.

**Action/Response:** The proposed roadway improvement project will address the deficiency at all driveways and bus stop access points are being reconstructed so that they will slope towards the gutter at the edge of the roadway. In this manner, ponding will be eliminated.



17. **Comment/Issue:** All new driveways need to be made of concrete, except those which currently are made of pavers or stamped concrete need to be replaced in-kind.

**Action/Response:** As part of the proposed roadway improvement project, all existing driveways will be reconstructed in concrete, except those that are currently stamped concrete or pavers, which will be replaced in-kind. The eventual Town contractor, as part of their contract, must replace any existing driveway with the same type of material. This practice is “standard” on all Town awarded contracts.

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18. **Comment/Issue:** The proposed drainage system will convey stormwater runoff away from Caribbean Boulevard, thereby eliminating the natural recharge of the groundwater in the aquifer that currently occurs with the existing grass swale system of drainage.

**Action/Response:** The proposed roadway drainage system is an underground exfiltration trench that will be constructed along Caribbean Boulevard corridor. The exfiltration trench is the “standard” used by Miami-Dade County Public Works Department on County Collector roadways, such as Caribbean Blvd. This type of system not only recharges the groundwater in the aquifer, but also provides a higher level of pre-treatment for pollutant(s) removal than the existing sodded swale system.

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19. **Comment/Issue:** Landscaping that is proposed to be planted as part of this project will not be maintained by the Town. In addition, Town needs to be careful not to create visibility issues with new plantings.

**Action/Response:** All of the proposed landscaping will be placed in conformance with visibility standards. As part of the proposed roadway improvement(s), the Town will require the selected contractor, during the first year after completion of project to maintain and warranty ALL newly installed landscaping (trees, shrubs, irrigation). After that, landscaping will be maintained by the Town’s landscape maintenance contractor.

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20. **Comment/Issue:** Town needs to coordinate with MDWASD regarding any currently on-going MDWASD projects and future proposed project - to avoid having to damage the new roadway section.

**Action/Response:** As part of the Design/Planning Phase of the proposed project, all utility companies and providers with facilities along Caribbean Boulevard are being coordinated with during the life of this project. The Town’s Project Design team will meet specifically with Miami-Dade Water and Sewer Department’s Planning staff to discuss any future water & sewer main improvements, along the Caribbean Blvd corridor.



21. **Comment/Issue:** During construction, maintenance of traffic and of access needs to be carefully coordinated with residents, and they and the public needs to be kept well informed.

**Action/Response:** The Town is planning a vigorous public information campaign for the construction of this project. Additionally, once the contract is awarded, the contractor will need to submit a Maintenance of Traffic plan that will be reviewed by the following departments: Miami-Dade County Public Works, Town of Cutler Bay Public Works & Police Department.

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22. **Comment/Issue:** The sidewalk along SW 89<sup>th</sup> Road is missing in segments between Caribbean Boulevard and Whispering Pines Elementary, and should be completed to provide a safe route for children who walk to school.

**Action/Response:** These missing sidewalk segments leading to Whispering Pine Elementary school will be constructed as part of the proposed roadway improvement(s) project.

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